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BOROUGH OF SUDBURY



in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

including the report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1960

MEMBERS OF THE DRAINAGE AND HEALTH
COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor H. Talbot

The Mayor: Councillor Col. G.L.J. Tuck, C.M.G., D.S.O., J.P.

Alderman C.E. Grimwood J.P.

Alderman L.W. McQuhae.

Councillor E.A. Essex.

Councillor A.E. Fayers.

Councillor H.R. Hills.

Councillor Mrs. K.M. Hitchcock.

Councillor G.C. Kisby.

All members of the Drainage and Health Committee were nominated to stand on the House Inspections Sub-Committee.

STAFF

Dr. G.P. Barclay M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health.

(This officer does not engage in private practice but holds in addition the following appointments - Medical Officer of Health Hadleigh U.D.C., Melford R.D.C. Cosford R.D.C., Thedwastre R.D.C. Assistant County Medical Officer, School Medical Officer.)

Mr. C.H.M. Hazlewood M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. Public Health Inspector.

Miss A. Bryant - Clerical Assistant and shorthand typist.

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Sudbury:-

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report of the Public Health Services for the year 1960.

This year the Registrar General's mid-year estimate of the population of the Borough again shows an upward trend and the birth rate is considerably higher than the previous year and above the Urban aggregate, the County aggregate and the Country as a whole, whilst the death rate does not vary to any marked degree from the above mentioned areas - Urban aggregate 10.2, County aggregate 9.5, England and Wales 11.5, Sudbury 10.8.

The numbers of notifiable diseases occurring in the town were low and no infectious disease rose to epidemic proportions.

I would like to express my appreciation of the interest taken and encouragement given by the Chairman Councillor H. Talbot and members of the Public Health Committee and to thank very sincerely the town clerk Mr. G.C. Mountstephen, the borough surveyor Mr. S.J. Blackwell and the public health inspector Mr. C.H. Hazlewood for willing co-operation during the year 1960.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G.P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics

Figures in brackets throughout the report relate to the previous year.

Population, Registrar General's Estimate 6280 (6260) Area 1925 acres
Number of inhabited houses 2926 (2903) Rateable Value £88,636 (£88,487)
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31/3/61 £353 (£348)

Extracts of Vital Statistics for the year

Live Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	106 (83)	50 (40)	56 (43)
Illegitimate	3 (3)	3 (0)	0 (3)
Total	<u>109 (86)</u>	<u>53 (40)</u>	<u>56 (46)</u>

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 17.4 (13.7)

Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 19.1 (15.1)

England and Wales Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 17.1 (16.5)

Urban Aggregate 17.0

County Aggregate 16.8.

Still Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	2 (1)	2 (1)	0 (0)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total	<u>2 (1)</u>	<u>2 (1)</u>	<u>0 (0)</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births 18.3 (11.5)

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live Births England and Wales 19.7 (20.7)

Illegitimate Birth Rate 2.7 per cent.

Deaths registered in 1960

Death Rate (crude)	20.7 (20.8)
Death Rate (adjusted)	10.8 (10.4)
Death Rate of England and Wales	11.5 (11.6)
<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>
130 (130)	51 (53)
	<u>Female</u>
	79 (77)

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child-birth,
pregnancy or abortion: 0 (0)

Infantile Mortality

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births 36.5 (11.5)

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births England and Wales 21.7 (22.0)

Neo-Natal Mortality

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	2	1	3
Death Rate of infants under one year:-			
All infants per 1,000 Live Births	27.5	(11.5)	

Early Neo-Natal Mortality

	<u>male</u>	<u>female</u>	<u>total</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 week	1	1	2

Death Rate of infants under 1 week
per 1,000 live births

18.3

Causes of Death

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Syphilitic disease	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
Deaths from Cancer (all types)	6 (6)	9 (6)	15 (12)
Deaths from Leukaemia	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (1)
Deaths from Diabetes	0 (1)	1 (1)	1 (2)
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of the nervous system	6 (7)	23 (22)	29 (29)
Deaths from Coronary Disease	12 (12)	8 (9)	20 (21)
Other circulatory diseases	8 (15)	14 (16)	22 (31)
Deaths from Influenza	0 (6)	0 (6)	0 (12)
Deaths from Bronchitis	3 (1)	1 (0)	4 (1)
Deaths from Pneumonia	6 (3)	6 (7)	12 (10)
Deaths from Other Respiratory Diseases	1 (0)	1 (0)	2 (0)
Deaths from Gastritis and Enteritis	0 (0)	1 (1)	1 (1)
Deaths from Ulcer of the Stomach	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
Deaths from Nephritis	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (1)
Deaths from Congenital mal- formations	2 (0)	2 (0)	4 (0)
Deaths from other defined and ill-defined diseases	5 (2)	8 (4)	13 (6)
Deaths from motor vehicle accidents	2 (0)	1 (0)	3 (0)
Deaths from all other accidents	1 (0)	0 (3)	1 (3)
 	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total all causes	52 (53)	77 (77)	129 (130)
 	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service.

Two ambulances are stationed in the town.

NURSING IN THE HOME

The West Suffolk County Council's Home Nursing and Midwifery service supply two District Nurses.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The West Suffolk County Council provide one centre in the town.

A Clinic is held weekly at the Youth Club premises, Stour Street, on Thursdays at 2 p.m. Welfare Foods are also distributed from this centre.

HOSPITALS

St. Leonards 43 beds.

Walnuttree 170 beds.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service directed by the Medical Research Council at Ipswich has given the Borough very generous service.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Section 47 - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and protection

It was necessary during 1960 to remove three persons to hospital.

Prevention of and Control over
Infectious Diseases

Notifications received

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases Notified</u>		
Measles	3	(252)	
Whooping Cough	2	(1)	
Scarlet Fever	25	(7)	
Infective Hepatitis	0	(2)	
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	(1)	
Encephalitis	0	(1)	
Erysipelas	2	(2)	
Pneumonia	18	(3)	
Dysentery	0	(0)	
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	(0)	
Food Poisoning	2	(0)	
 Totals	 55	 (269)	

TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non- Pulmonary</u>			<u>Total</u> <u>all types</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Number of cases on register at beginning of year	12	20	32	1	3	4	36
Number of cases added during the year	1	1	2	0	1	1	3
Number of cases removed during the year	5	4	9	0	0	0	9
Number of cases re- maining on register at end	8	17	25	1	4	5	30

No deaths were caused by any type of tuberculosis during 1960.

WATER SUPPLY - SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL - CLEANSING

Contributed by Mr. S.J. Blackwell
M.I.Mun.E., A.M.Inst. H.E.
Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer

WATER SUPPLY

An adequate supply of water has been maintained throughout the district. Bacteriological analyses have been taken and in all cases the results have been excellent. The samples were taken after chlorination, which is carried out as a precautionary measure only.

No chemical analysis was taken during the year. Owing to the extreme hardness of the water there is no danger from dissolved lead.

Remarks made in previous years still apply, that the storage capacity of the high level tank is very poor in view of the number of properties it now serves and which are being continually added to its area. During the year mains were relaid in Friars Street and a leak which occurred in the service reservoir was sealed.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The effluent from the sewage works has been maintained at a reasonably good purity. Sludge drying did not present such a problem this year. Work on a report on the sewers and sewage works was commenced with a view to the Council considering a programme of improvement works.

CLEANSING

This continued to function satisfactorily and a high standard of street cleansing and refuse collection was maintained.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occup. Pros.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	73	26	2	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	2	-	-
Total	80	30	2	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	2	2	—	2
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—
 TOTAL	5	5	—	3

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>No. of Outworkers</u>
Wearing apparel (making etc.)	1
Curtains and Furniture hangings	1

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

C.H.M. Hazlewood M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Sudbury Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is little to be added this year that has not already been written in the Annual Reports of the past few years. Housing work continued to take up by far the largest portion of my time and once again I make no apology for this as I am convinced that the provision of new homes for those in miserable circumstances, and the improvement and maintenance of the homes in a tolerably good condition is the basic essential of environmental health work.

Whilst it was not possible to devote as much time as was necessary to other public health works in 1960, the Council's decision, at the end of the year, to release me from the work concerning housing maintenance, will undoubtedly allow more time for such matters as Food Hygiene and Factories and Shops Inspection etc. in the future. Favourable as this decision may have been from a health inspection view point, it was with considerable personal reluctance that I handed over a department that I had built up almost from scratch during my first five years of service with the Council.

The Chairman and Members of the Drainage and Health Committee have continued to show their interest in the work of the Public Health Department which is much appreciated. My thanks are due to staff colleagues for their continued co-operation. Miss Bryant has continued to be of great assistance both to Dr. Barclay and myself.

C. Hazlewood

Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Slum Clearance

The position at the end of the year as regards clearance areas dealt with since the submission of the Council's proposals in August 1955 was as follows:-

- (1) Cross Street and Mill Lane Area (9 houses) - acquired by agreement and all demolished.
- (2) Bulmer Road and Ballingdon Street Area (6 houses) - compulsory purchase order confirmed by Minister, 4 houses demolished.
- (3) Grimwoods Yard Area (7 houses) - all demolished.
- (4) Church Street, Mill Lane and Plough Lane Area (16 houses) - clearance order confirmed by Minister, 15 of the properties vacated, 13 demolished.
- (5) Burkitts Lane Area (4 houses) - all demolished.
- (6) Garden Row Area (18 houses) - compulsory purchase order confirmed by Minister, all demolished.
- (7) Gregory Street Area (51 houses) - declared clearance area by Council. Clearance Order confirmed by Minister in respect of 47 properties. 35 vacated, 11 demolished.
- (8) East Street Area (9 houses) - declared clearance area by Council. 3 properties vacant.
- (9) The Croft (6 houses) - declared clearance area by Council.
- (10) The Mount, North Street and Girling Street Area -(27 houses)-declared clearance area by Council.

Rehousing - Slum Clearance.

Twenty one families, comprising sixty eight persons were rehoused by the Council from cleared or closed properties during the year. The total number of families rehoused by the Council between August 1955 and 31st December 1960 was 71 and the number of persons 216.

Closing Orders

During the year Closing Orders were made under section 17 of the Housing Act 1957 on eighteen properties.

Temporary Accommodation

Three small cottage dwellings purchased for temporary accommodation in accordance with section 17 of the Housing Act 1957 were retained during the year.

Housing Repairs

There was no occasion when statutory action needed to be taken to secure repairs during the year.

Eight properties were repaired following service of written informal notices.

Many other minor repairs were also attended to promptly after an informal call on the owner or a telephone call.

Certificates of Disrepair

There were no applications for certificates of disrepair during the year.

Improvement Grants

Discretionary Grants - Ten applications for grants were approved during the year. All of these grants were in respect of owner occupied properties.

Standard Grants - Nine applications for grant were approved during the year. Eight were in respect of owner occupied properties.

Observations:- The steady progress of clearing the town slums was continued during the year.

In the period between the submission of the Council's clearance proposals in August 1955 and the 31st December 1960 74 properties were demolished and a further 58 subject to confirmed orders were vacated and awaited demolition. Statutory action to clear a further 60 had already been initiated. Confirmation of the orders concerning these 60 properties has since been received.

The number of properties actually demolished in 1960 was 41.

My comments in previous Annual Reports clearly indicate that it is my opinion that the housing tasks before the Council are substantial for a small Borough. The number of unfit properties per thousand population is above the national average and, whilst there is no cause for complacency, some satisfaction can be gained from knowing that a good start has been made in Slum Clearance. If the present rate of progress is maintained, the very worst of the towns dwellings will have been cleared by 1965. When this stage is reached a further review will have become necessary and, by that time, a clear pattern should have emerged showing those currently below standard that can be made fit and be modernised and those that will never provide a satisfactory home and must, therefore, be demolished.

It is unfortunate that there are in the town large numbers of four roomed terrace houses on the border line of the present legal standard of unfitness, that cannot readily be improved because of poor internal and external arrangements and must, in the not too distant future, be considered for clearance.

A problem equally as pressing as the clearance of unfit houses is the modernisation and consequent salvaging of many lacking facilities.

A detailed survey of the South Electoral Ward, the oldest part and approximately one third of the town, revealed that 53% were without baths, 62% were without wash basins, 24% lacked a deep sink, 57% did not have an internal water closet, 52% had no hot water supply and 70% were without a ventilated foodstore.

It will be readily seen from these figures that much remains to be done if every family is to enjoy the true comforts of a modern home and when one compares the number of improvement grant applications made with these figures it becomes obvious that a new impetus must be given to house modernisation.

With the clearance of some of the central sites, the possibilities of future development being near the town, rather than at the outskirts, is advanced. This is all to the good, as not only is derelict land reclaimed and rateable values increased, but much needed central accommodation can be provided for the elderly. It is becoming evident as clearance proceeds that the percentage of elderly people involved is steadily rising and housing schemes must cater for this trend.

MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTIONS

Slaughtering was carried out at the three licenced slaughterhouses in the Borough.

The number of licenced slaughtermen was eight.

The total number of visits to slaughterhouses was 196.

Details of inspections and condemnation are as follows:-
(figures of the previous year are in brackets).

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed	153 (138)	1 (2)	1 (7)	126 (212)	585 (720)
Number inspected	149 (135)	1 (2)	1 (5)	116 (200)	567 (711)

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	13
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	2.7	-	-	-	3.2

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	19
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.0	-	-	-	3.4

Cysticercus Bovis was discovered in one case. The organs and carcase concerned being placed in cold storage.

96.3% of all animals killed were inspected.

All diseased meat was coloured before being disposed of principally by burying at the Council's tip.

The total number of animals inspected was somewhat lower than for the previous year due mainly to the absence of a slaughter through illness at one period during the year.

Whilst the figures themselves are comparatively small, the fact that only a few animals are slaughtered at a time meant that 196 separate visits had to be made to the slaughterhouses.

The Council's report on Slaughtering facilities was prepared and submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food during the year. This report indicated that the Council were of the opinion that only one of the three existing slaughterhouses could be made to comply with construction regulations; that existing and proposed slaughtering facilities within and outside the district would be adequate for the needs of butchers in the town; and that because of the importance of the cattle market to the town and because of the desirability of allowing butchers to buy their meat live and have it slaughtered themselves, the retention of one moderately sized slaughterhouse in the town should be strongly encouraged.

The following additional foodstuffs were examined at wholesale and retail food shops and certificates given when they were voluntarily surrendered.

Canned Foods

Fruits	269 tins
Vegetables	271 tins
Soups	67 tins
Milk products	111 tins
Meat products	107 tins
Fish	17 tins
Other tinned products	42 tins
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	884 tins
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In addition various meat products to a total weight of 18 lbs, fish products total weight 16 lb and Prunes total weight 116 lbs were condemned at grocers or butchers shops.

FOOD PREMISES

Milk and Dairies

Number of registered distributors	8
Designated licences in force	
Dealers Tuberculin Tested	4
Dealers Pasteurised	5
Dealers Sterilized	3
Supplementary Tuberculin Tested	1
Supplementary Pasteurised and Sterilized	1

All milk samples taken during the year passed the prescribed tests.

The Milk (Special Designation)(Specified Areas) Order 1958 has effect in this area prohibiting the retail sale of milk for human consumption which is not a special designated milk.

ICE CREAM

The few samples taken of nationally known ice cream products were all reported as Grade 1 or 2.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The total numbers of the various types of food premises in the Borough are as follows:-

Cafes and Restaurants	10
Bakehouses	2
Home confectioners	2
Cake shops	1
Confectioners	14
Greengrocers	6
Grocers and general stores	25
Butchers	9
Fishmongers	6
Public Houses	20
Hotels	4
Guest Houses	1
Clubs	4
Canteens	9
Wine merchants	2
Packers and processors	2
Wholesalers	3
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Total	120
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In addition to the above markets are held on the Market Hill. A fishmonger, grocer, greengrocers and confectioners attend regularly on Thursdays and greengrocers occasionally on Saturdays.

Premises registered for the storage and sale of Ice Cream number 24.

Premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of Sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale number 16.

1960 was yet another year when far too little time was available to carry out the inspection of food premises and to advise on the hygienic handling and storage of food. However, inspections that were made indicated that there is a slight improvement in the awareness of managements that a high standard of hygiene is not only necessary from health grounds but also pays dividends in so far as trade is concerned.

COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES

During the year the Public Health Inspector also carried out the duties of Housing Maintenance Officer.

At the end of 1960 the Council owned:-

126	pre war council houses.
3	pre war council bungalows.
330	post war council houses.
38	post war council bungalows
10	prefabricated dwellings.
42	other dwellings.

Total	549
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Tenders were accepted for the construction of a further 16 two bedrooomed houses and 16 one bedrooomed flats.

The Council now own 35 garages, all except one being sited on the two major post war estates.

54 new tenancies were granted during the year, five of these being transfers. 21 of the new tenants came from slum clearance properties.

The number of applicants on the Council's housing lists at the end of 1960 was 151. 13 came on the list prior to 1956 14 were first registered in 1957, 26 in 1958, 34 in 1959 and 64 in 1960.

Several written reports were made to the Housing Allocations Committee concerning the accommodation occupied by applicants and many verbal reports on such matters made to the Committee when new tenants were selected.

External re-painting, internal redecorations following vacations and all repair works, excluding those concerning gas and electrical appliances and fittings, continued to be carried out by the direct labour staff.

In all over 900 complaints were received and dealt with by the direct labour staff.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council continued the practise of employing a part time rodent operator who spends approximately 50% of his time on other duties.

Although less survey work is carried out than when a full time operator was employed actual treatment work was very little reduced. There was no obvious rise in the number of complaints received and a part time operator would appear to adequately cope with the work.

Thirty business premises were treated, under agreement, when found to be infested. Treatment charges were continued at 6/- per hour.

One sewer treatment was carried out, employing an extended baiting system using acute poisons. As in the previous year the treatment did not cover the whole of the severed area, but only those areas which from past experience were known to be infested. Results of the treatment were satisfactory and showed that no increase in the rodent sewer population had taken place over the last year.

CESSPOOLS AND NIGHTSOIL

There were no further sewer connections during the year. 20 isolated properties with cesspool or septic tank drainage remain. Pail closets were emptied twice a week from eight properties only.

DISINFESTATION

Disinfestation of 10 premises was found to be necessary during the year and spraying of the refuse tip was carried out as often as necessary. The Council agreed to arrange for the destruction of wasps nests, but made a standard charge of 10/- for each nest destroyed - 12 nests were dealt with under this service.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There were no licences in being authorizing the erection and use of moveable dwellings during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT

The number of pet shops licenced during the year remained at three.

SHOP ACTS

As in the previous year very little work in this connection was carried out.

FACTORIES ACT

Details of inspections under the Factories Acts are recorded at pages 10, 11 and 12.

The number of inspections made was still too low to be considered satisfactory or to allow any accurate assessment of conditions in such premises to be made.

SWIMMING POOL

Swimming pool attendances were at a good average level, even though somewhat fewer than the previous years attendances which were exceptional because of the very good weather that year.

Admissions to Swimming Pool for 1959 and 1960

	1959	1960
Childrens Season Tickets	326	377
Adults Season Tickets	26	31
School bathers	5,762	6,126
Other bathers	29,128	21,199
Spectators	3,887	2,849

Reports on samples taken for bacteriological examination were, in all cases, satisfactory.

The pool is filled with mains water that is under constant recirculation passing through pressure filters and being chlorinated at rates and frequency charges necessary to maintain adequate purity according to usage.

